

COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLANDBILL NO. 00-49Introduced by Council President Hirsch at the request of the County Executive
and Council Members Heseltun and SteppLegislative Day No. 00-25 Date September 5, 2000

AN ACT to add the definition of fire official to Section 244-1, Definitions, of Article I, General Provisions; to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 244-6, Establishment; removal of obstructions; cost of signs or markings, of Article II, Fire Lanes; to add Subsection A(18) to Section 244-17.1, Stopping, standing and parking, of Article IIIA, Parking; and to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Subsection E of Section 244-20, Parking fines, of Article IV, Citations and Penalties, all of Chapter 244, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Harford County Code, as amended, to provide for a definition of fire official; to provide for the designation of a fire lane under certain circumstances; to provide for a monetary fine for a violation of this section; to provide that a vehicle cannot be parked in a fire lane; and generally relating to fire lanes.

By the Council, September 5, 2000

Introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled

on: October 3, 2000at: 7:15 p. m.By Order: James E. Massey Jr., Council Administrator**PUBLIC HEARING**

Having been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, a public hearing was held on Oct. 3, 2000, and concluded on, Oct. 3, 2000.

James E. Massey Jr., Council Administrator

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law. Underlining indicates language added to Bill by amendment. Language lined through indicates matter stricken out of Bill by amendment.

1 Section 1. Be It Enacted By The County Council of Harford County, Maryland, That the
2 definition of fire official be, and it is hereby, added to Section 244-1, Definitions, of Article I,
3 General Provisions; that Section 244-6, Establishment; removal of obstructions; cost of signs or
4 markings, of Article II, Fire Lanes, be, and it is hereby, repealed and re-enacted, with amendments;
5 that Subsection A(18) be, and it is hereby, added to Section 244-17.1, Stopping, standing and
6 parking, of Article IIIA, Parking; and that Subsection E of Section 244-20, Parking fines, of Article
7 IV, Citations and Penalties, be, and it is hereby, repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, all of
8 Chapter 244, Vehicles and Traffic, of the Harford County Code, as amended, and all to read as
9 follows:

10 **Chapter 244. Vehicles and Traffic**

11 **Article I. General Provisions**

12 **§ 244-1. Definitions.**

13 For the purposes of this chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings
14 respectively ascribed to them by this section:

15 FIRE LANE – A lane required [or] to be permanently open for the ingress or egress of fire
16 and other emergency vehicles [only, in order that fires and other disasters may be prevented or
17 controlled and exitways kept unobstructed for life safety].

18 [FIRE MARSHAL – The State Fire Marshal or any duly appointed County Fire Marshal.]

19 FIRE OFFICIAL – THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL, A DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL
20 OR A CHIEF OF A HARFORD COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY.

21 **Article II. Fire Lanes**

22 **§ 244-6. [Establishment; removal of obstructions; cost of signs or markings.]**

23 **DESIGNATION.**

24 [The Fire Marshal or the Fire Chief of the fire company serving the particular area shall

1 study the access to all buildings, especially those which are in a congested area in the county and are
2 used by the public, and shall determine whether such buildings require the designation and markings
3 of fire lanes. If the Fire Marshal, in coordination with the Fire Chief of the fire company serving the
4 area involved, shall find that any private entrance or exit, sidewalk, fire hydrant or vehicular
5 driveway or interior private driveway or sidewalk, existing or proposed, is obstructed or is likely to
6 be obstructed by vehicles, debris, snow, construction material or other matter likely to interfere with
7 the ingress or egress of emergency vehicles, he shall order that the obstruction be removed at once
8 and that such areas be kept clear of obstruction at all times. In order to facilitate the keeping of such
9 ingress and egress areas free from obstruction, the Fire Marshal or Fire Chief shall erect the proper
10 warning signs and shall designate placement thereof in cooperation with the Department of Public
11 Works, and he shall designate proper fire lanes, which shall be clearly marked with the words, "Fire
12 Lane - Do Not Block," and such curb, road, sidewalk or driveway or other access shall also have
13 painted upon it, in a highly visible color, lines that will delineate the areas to be kept clear of any
14 obstruction. Where such signs or markings must be erected or painted on privately owned property,
15 the cost of the signs or marking or painting shall be borne by the owners of the property.]

16 A. A FIRE OFFICIAL SHALL DESIGNATE A FIRE LANE IF THE FIRE OFFICIAL
17 DETERMINES THAT PUBLIC SAFETY REQUIRES DESIGNATION OF A FIRE LANE TO
18 PROVIDE ACCESS TO:

19 (1) A BUILDING OR PLACE IN WHICH PEOPLE WORK OR ASSEMBLE
20 FOR ANY PURPOSE; OR

21 (2) A BUILDING CONTAINING MORE THAN 2 DWELLING UNITS.

22 B. WHEN A FIRE OFFICIAL DETERMINES A FIRE LANE IS REQUIRED, THE
23 PROPERTY OWNER SHALL:

1 (1) CLEARLY DESIGNATE THE FIRE LANE BY POSTING A SIGN
2 APPROVED BY A FIRE OFFICIAL; AND

3 (2) PAINT RED ANY CURB OR ROADWAY TO DESIGNATE THE FIRE
4 LANE. THE SHADE OF THE RED PAINT SHALL BE APPROVED BY A FIRE OFFICIAL.

5 C. A PROPERTY OWNER SHALL MAINTAIN A CLEAR SPACE OF AT LEAST
6 36 INCHES AROUND ANY FIRE HYDRANT LOCATED ON HIS OR HER PROPERTY AND
7 SHALL MAINTAIN AN UNOBSTRUCTED AREA (I.E., FREE OF LANDSCAPING OR OTHER
8 OBSTRUCTIONS) BETWEEN THE CURB AND THE FACE OF THE HYDRANT. THE
9 UNOBSTRUCTED AREA SHALL EXTEND A MINIMUM OF 6 FEET, MEASURED ALONG
10 THE CURB, TO EITHER SIDE OF THE CENTERLINE OF THE HYDRANT.

11 D. A PROPERTY OWNER SHALL MAINTAIN AN UNOBSTRUCTED PATH
12 FROM THE CURB TO ANY FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION LOCATED ON A
13 BUILDING. THE PATH SHALL BE A MINIMUM OF 4 FEET WIDE.

14 E. A PROPERTY OWNER WHO FAILS TO PROPERLY DESIGNATE AND
15 MAINTAIN A FIRE LANE BY APPROPRIATE SIGNS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
16 MARKING OR WHO FAILS TO MAINTAIN UNOBSTRUCTED ACCESS OR CLEAR SPACE
17 TO A HYDRANT OR FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION AS REQUIRED BY THIS
18 SECTION SHALL BE LIABLE FOR A CIVIL PENALTY OF \$100. EACH DAY A VIOLATION
19 CONTINUES IS A SEPARATE OFFENSE.

20 F. A FINE UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE IMPOSED IN THE FOLLOWING
21 MANNER:

22 (1) A FIRE OFFICIAL WHO OBSERVES A VIOLATION SHALL REPORT
23 THE VIOLATION TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL.

(2) A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL WHO OBSERVES A VIOLATION OR TO WHOM A VIOLATION HAS BEEN REPORTED SHALL VERIFY THAT A VIOLATION EXISTS AND SHALL ISSUE A CITATION TO THE PROPERTY OWNER.

(3) THE CITATION MAY BE HAND DELIVERED OR SENT BY CERTIFIED MAIL.

Article IIIA. Parking

§ 244-17.1. Stopping, standing and parking.

A. The provisions of this section apply except as necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in compliance with law or the directions of a police officer or traffic control device.

(18) A PERSON MAY NOT PARK A VEHICLE IN A FIRE LANE.

Article IV. Citations and Penalties

§ 244-20. Parking fines.

E. The fine for a parking violation in a fire lane as set forth in [§244-6] §244-17.1 is [thirty-five dollars (\$35.)] \$55.

Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted, That this Act shall take effect 60 calendar days from the date it becomes law.

EFFECTIVE:

The Council Administrator does hereby certify that fifteen (15) copies of this Bill are immediately available for distribution to the public and the press.

James E. Massey
Council Administrator

(Title) Fire Officials and Fire Lanes

is herewith submitted to the County Council of Harford County for enrollment as being the text as finally passed.

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT

ENROLLED

Council Administrator

Date _____

Date _____

BY THE COUNCIL

Read the third time.

Passed:LSD _____

Failed of Passage: _____

By Order

Council Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this _____ day of _____ 2000, at _____ p.m.

Council Administrator

BY THE EXECUTIVE

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED: Date _____

"THIS BILL (NO.00-49), UPON MOTION DULY MADE, SECONDED, AND CARRIED IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION DAY 00-30 (OCTOBER 17,2000), WAS WITHDRAWN FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION."

James E. Massey, Jr. Administrator

AMENDMENT TO BILL NO. 00-49
(Page and line references are to Bill as Introduced.)

Introduced by: Council President Hirsch at the Request of the County Executive

Legislative Session Day: 00-28

Date: October 3, 2000

Amendment No. 1

On page 3, in line 23, after the word "TO" strike the words "A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL" and substitute "THE MANAGER OF THE DIVISION OF EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER OR DESIGNEE".

Amendment No. 2

On page 4, in line 1, strike the words "A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL" and substitute "AN EMPLOYEE OF THE DIVISION OF EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER".

Amendment No. 1 & 2 to Bill No. 00-49

Introduced — LSD- 00-28 Adopted - LSD- _____

Placed on
Procedural - LSD- 00-28 Rejected - LSD- _____
Layover

Tabled - LSD- _____ Withdrawn - LSD- 00-30